

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing hardware resources, comprising:  
providing an executable software modules ~~module~~ configured to communicate with the hardware resources, ~~the~~ each executable software module implementing a common interface to allow a monitoring device to be implemented independent of the hardware resources and corresponding to a different one of the hardware resources;  
operating the executable software modules ~~module~~ to cause the executable software modules ~~module~~ to return information to the monitoring device about the hardware resources, wherein the information includes hardware configuration information associated with the hardware resources and customer information associated with customers of the hardware resources, wherein the customer information includes world-wide names of equipment used by the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the hardware resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the hardware resources by the customers; ~~and~~

storing the hardware configuration information and the customer information in a database;

generating a directory of executable modules; and

placing each of the executable software modules in the directory,

wherein the common interface comprises a set of methods comprising a first method that, when called, causes the executable software module to identify a class of hardware resource with which the executable software module is configured to communicate, and a second method that, when called, causes the executable software module to identify any hardware resources within the class that are connected.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardware resources comprise data storage resources.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data storage resources reside in a datacenter controlled by a storage service provider.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising presenting the hardware configuration information and the customer information to an administrator of the storage service provider.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the hardware configuration information comprises data storage resource attributes.

6. (Original) The method claim 5, further comprising enabling the administrator to select, for a given data storage resource, which of the data storage attributes are to be stored in the database.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the executable software module comprises JAVA classes.

Claims 8 to 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~10~~, wherein the methods further ~~include~~ comprise a third method that, when called, causes the executable software module to poll the hardware resources identified within the class that are connected ~~by the executable software module to provide attribute information associated with the hardware resources~~.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein results of the polling are provided in XML format.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the results of the polling are provided in a format other than XML and the executable software module performing the polling converts the results of the polling to XML format.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the methods further comprise a fourth method that, when called, causes the executable software module to return a list of services and associated parameters.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the methods further comprise a fifth method that, when called, causes the executable software module to execute a requested one of the services on a list of services.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein making a call to the fifth method comprises specifying values of parameters associated with the requested one of the services.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
adding a new data storage resource to the datacenter; and  
placing the new data storage resource in a directory of hardware resources.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer-readable medium for managing hardware resources, the computer program product comprising instructions causing a computer to:

provide ~~an~~ executable software modules ~~module~~ configured to communicate with the hardware resources, ~~the~~ each executable software module implementing a common interface to allow a monitoring device to be implemented independent of the hardware resources and corresponding to a different one of the hardware resources;

operate the executable software modules ~~module~~ to cause the executable software modules ~~module~~ to return information to the monitoring device about the hardware resources, wherein the information includes hardware configuration information associated with the hardware resources and customer information associated with customers of the hardware resources, the customer information includes world-wide names of equipment used by the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the hardware resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the hardware resources by the customers; ~~and~~

store the hardware configuration information and the customer information in a database;

generate a directory of executable modules; and

place each of the executable software modules in the directory,

wherein the common interface comprises a set of methods comprising a first method that, when called, causes the executable software module to identify a class of hardware resource with

which the executable software module is configured to communicate, and a second method that, when called, causes the executable software module to identify any hardware resources within the class that are connected.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for managing storage resources comprising:  
a server configured to execute software for managing resources to which the server is connected,  
wherein the software ~~includes an~~ comprises executable software ~~module~~ modules being configured to communicate with the storage resources, the software module implementing a common interface to allow a monitoring device to be implemented independent of the resources and corresponding to a different one of the hardware resources, wherein ~~the~~ each executable software module includes a method configured to monitor changes in configuration of the storage resources, configured to gather attribute information associated with the storage resources, configured to store storage resource configuration information associated with the storage resources, ~~and~~ configured to store customer information associated with customers of the storage resources, the customer information includes world-wide names of equipment used by the customers, allocation information indicative of allocations of the storage resources to the customers and billable event information for use by a billing application to bill the customers and indicative of usage of the storage resources by the customers, configured to generate a directory of executable modules; and configured to place each of the executable software modules in the directory.

wherein the common interface comprises a set of methods comprising a first method that, when called, causes the executable software module to identify a class of hardware resource with which the executable software module is configured to communicate, and a second method that, when called, causes the executable software module to identify any hardware resources within the class that are connected.

Claims 21 to 23 (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein storing comprises storing the customer information in a table, an entry in the table comprising:

a first field indicating an allocated hardware resource;

a second field storing the ~~addresses~~ world-wide names of the equipment associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field; and

a third field indicating the customer associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein instructions causing a computer to store comprises instructions causing a computer to store the customer information in a table, an entry in the table comprising:

a first field indicating an allocated hardware resource;

a second field storing the ~~addresses~~ world-wide names of the equipment associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field; and

a third field indicating the customer associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein ~~the~~ each executable software module is configured to store comprises ~~the~~ each executable software module being configured to store the customer information in a table, an entry in the table comprising:

a first field indicating an allocated hardware resource;

a second field storing the ~~addresses~~ world-wide names of the equipment associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field; and

a third field indicating the customer associated with the allocated hardware resource in the first field.